

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing device comprising:

first managing means for managing first IDs for identifying another device other than said information processing device itself;

second managing means for managing second IDs for identifying contents;

supplying means for supplying said second ID managed by said second managing means to said other device upon said other device making a request for distribution of said contents;

identifying means for identifying said first ID managed by said first managing means based upon the information for identifying said first ID and said second ID received from said other device;

generating means for generating a schedule for distributing said contents identified by said second ID to said other device corresponding to said identified first ID in the event that said first ID has been identified by said specifying means; and

distributing means for distributing said contents according to said schedule generated by said generating means,

wherein in the event that the user having said other

device has specified the point-in-time for distributing said contents through said other device, said generating means determine whether or not transmission of said contents can be performed at the specified point-in-time, and in the event that determination has been made that the transmission can be performed, said generating means generate a schedule for transmission of said contents with the specified transmission point-in-time.

2. An information processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said generating means determine whether or not said distributing means have sufficient transmission capability for distributing said contents at said specified point-in-time, by the distributing means referring to the schedule corresponding to said specified point-in-time, which has been generated, so as to confirm the data size of said contents corresponding to said specified transmission point-in-time, which has been specified, and determining whether or not said distributing means have sufficient transmission capability for transmitting said contents with the data size which is the sum of said data size which has been confirmed and the data size of the content data regarding which a new schedule is to be generated.

3. An information processing device according to Claim

1, wherein in the event that said identifying means identify said two first IDs based upon the information received from said other device, said identifying means identify one first ID as a billing user ID for identifying the user which is to be billed for said contents, and the other first ID as a destination ID for identifying the destination device for receiving said contents;

and wherein said generating means generate a schedule for billing the user identified by said billing user ID, and distributing said contents to said other device identified by said destination ID.

4. An information processing device according to Claim 3, further comprising query means for making a query to the user having said other device identified by the destination ID, regarding whether or not the intended recipient will accept distribution of said contents in the event that said identifying means have identified said destination ID;

wherein, in the event that said identifying means have identified said destination ID, said generating means generate an unfixed schedule, and upon said generating means receiving a response that the intended recipient has decided to accept distribution of said contents as a response to the query transmitted from said query means, said generating means change said unfixed schedule to a fixed schedule;

and wherein said distributing means distribute said contents according to said fixed schedule.

5. An information processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising schedule-supplying means for supplying a schedule to said other device corresponding to said first ID in the event that said other device corresponding to said first ID has made a request for supplying said schedule, and said generating means have generated said schedule for said other device corresponding to said first ID.

6. An information processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

determining means for determining whether or not said other device corresponding to said first ID can receive and store said content data transmitted according to said schedule; and

updating means for updating said schedule in the event that said determination means have determined that said other device corresponding to said first ID cannot receive and store said content data.

7. An information processing method comprising:

a first management step for managing first IDs for identifying another device;

a second management step for managing second IDs for identifying contents;

a supplying step for supplying said second ID managed in the processing in said second management step to said other device upon said other device making a request for distribution of said contents;

an identifying step for identifying said first ID managed in the processing in said first management step based upon the information for identifying said first ID and said second ID received from said other device;

a generating step for generating a schedule for distributing said contents identified by said second ID to said other device corresponding to said identified first ID in the event that said first ID has been identified in the processing in said specifying step; and

a distributing control step for controlling distribution of said contents according to said schedule generated in the processing in said generating step;

wherein, in the event that the user having said other device has specified the point-in-time for distributing said contents through said other device, determination is made whether or not transmission of said contents can be performed at the specified point-in-time in the processing in said generating step, and in the event that determination has been made that the transmission can be performed, a

schedule for transmission of said contents at the specified transmission point-in-time is generated in the processing in said generating step.

8. A recording medium storing a computer-readable program, said program comprising:

- code for a first management step for managing first IDs for identifying another device;

- code for a second management step for managing second IDs for identifying contents;

- code for a supplying step for supplying said second ID managed in the processing in said second management step to said other device upon said other device making a request for distribution of said contents;

- code for an identifying step for identifying said first ID managed in the processing in said first management step based upon the information for identifying said first ID and said second ID received from said other device;

- code for a generating step for generating a schedule for distributing said contents identified by said second ID to said other device corresponding to said identified first ID in the event that said first ID has been identified in the processing in said specifying step; and

- code for a distributing control step for controlling distribution of said contents according to said schedule

generated in the processing in said generating step;

wherein, in the event that the user having said other device has specified the point-in-time for distributing said contents through said other device, determination is made whether or not transmission of said contents can be performed at the specified point-in-time in the processing in said generating step, and in the event that determination has been made that the transmission can be performed, a schedule for transmission of said contents at the specified transmission point-in-time is generated in the processing in said generating step.

9. A program for causing a computer to execute:

a first management step for managing first IDs for identifying another device;

a second management step for managing second IDs for identifying contents;

a supplying step for supplying said second ID managed in the processing in said second management step to said other device upon said other device making a request for distribution of said contents;

an identifying step for identifying said first ID managed in the processing in said first management step based upon the information for identifying said first ID and said second ID received from said other device;

a generating step for generating a schedule for distributing said contents identified by said second ID to said other device corresponding to said identified first ID in the event that said first ID has been identified in the processing in said specifying step; and

a distributing control step for controlling distribution of said contents according to said schedule generated in the processing in said generating step;

wherein, in the event that the user having said other device has specified the point-in-time for distributing said contents through said other device, determination is made whether or not transmission of said contents can be performed at the specified point-in-time in the processing in said generating step, and in the event that determination has been made that the transmission can be performed, a schedule for transmission of said contents at the specified transmission point-in-time is generated in the processing in said generating step.